AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of reducing bandwidth utilization while providing information to a client from a client access network in the form of user information regarding a set of users, said method comprising the following steps:

receiving in an information delivery server, a subscription request from the client for certain information on the set of users;

receiving and storing by the server, information updates regarding users in the set;

receiving by the server, a first request for the certain user information from the client;

retrieving by the server, stored user information corresponding to the requested user information;

sending a first notification from the server to the client, the first notification including the retrieved user information, in response to the first user information request;

receiving by the server, a subsequent request for the certain user information from the client, wherein the same information is requested in the first and subsequent requests; and

comparing by the server, currently stored user information with the retrieved user information sent to the client in the first notification to determine whether there are any changes in the user information since the first notification;

when there are no changes in the user information, sending a subsequent notification from the server to the client indicating that the user information has not changed; and

when there are changes in the user information since the first notification, sending [[a]] the subsequent notification from the server to the client, the subsequent

~~notification including~~ indicating only the changes in the user information since the first notification~~, in response to the subsequent user information request~~.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the users are mobile users.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the user information is presence information on the users.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the users in the set are connected to other access networks, wherein the client access network establishes a network subscription for user information updates with each of the other access networks to which users in the set are connected, in response to the received client subscription request.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 4, wherein several of the users in the set are connected to the same user access network, wherein the client access network sends one common subscription request for those users to that user access network, including a list of the users in the set being connected to that network.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 4, wherein information updates are continuously received from the other access networks whenever changes of state are detected for the users in the set, impacting the present network subscription.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 4, wherein, after establishing the network subscriptions, information is initially received from the other access networks on the current states of their respective users.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 7, wherein an initial notification is sent to the client regarding the received user information, before receiving the first user information request.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the first request for user information received from the client is limited to a subset of users comprising fewer users than the set of users.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the first request for user information received from the client requests fewer types of information than the information included in the subscription.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 9, wherein the first request for user information received from the client is limited to a subset of users or types of information selected by the client.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 11, wherein the subset of users or types of information is adapted to a service or application currently utilized by the client.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the subscription request from the client indicates the types of information requested.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the subscription request from the client indicates a time of expiration for the subscription.

17.　(Previously Presented)　　The method according to claim 16, wherein the subscription request from the client specifies a minimum time between successive notifications corresponding to the time of expiration.

18.　(Previously Presented)　　The method according to claim 1, wherein the set of users is selected by indicating a predetermined list of users.

19.　(Previously Presented)　　The method according to claim 1, wherein the set of users is selected as an ad hoc list of users.

20.　(Previously Presented)　　The method according to claim 1, wherein the set of users is selected by adding users to or deleting users from a predetermined list of users.

21.　(Currently Amended)　　An arrangement in a client access network for reducing bandwidth utilization while providing information to a connected client in the form of information regarding a set of users, said arrangement comprising:

an information delivery server for receiving a subscription request from the client for certain information on the set of users, for receiving information updates regarding the set of users from their respective access networks, for receiving requests for the certain user information from the client, and for sending notifications including requested user information to the client in response to the user information requests; and

a data storage means in communication with the information delivery server for storing updated user information;

wherein, when a request for user information is received from the client, the information delivery server retrieves the requested user information from the data storage means, determines whether there are any changes to the stored user information since a previous notification was sent to the client, and sends a notification to the client including only changes in the user information since a previous notification, wherein when the user information has not changed, the notification does not include

user information, but indicates the user information has not changed ~~in response to the user information request~~.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The arrangement according to claim 21, wherein at least some of the users in the set are connected to other access networks, wherein the information delivery server is configured to establish a network subscription for user information updates with each of the other access networks to which users in the set are connected, in response to the received client subscription request.

23.   (Previously Presented)   The arrangement according to claim 21, wherein the information delivery server is configured to continuously receive information updates from the other access networks whenever changes of state are detected for the users in the set.

24.   (Previously Presented)   The arrangement according to claim 21, wherein the information delivery server is configured to initially receive from the other networks information on the current states of their respective users.

25.   (Previously Presented)   The arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the information delivery server is configured to send an initial notification to the client containing the received user information.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Previously Presented)   The arrangement according to claim 21, further comprising a user list server for maintaining various lists of users defined for clients of the client access network, and for providing a predetermined list as a basis for the selected set of users.